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# THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING

VOL. XXII

OCTOBER, 1921

No. 1

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### INTERNATIONALISM IN NURSING

**I**N November there will occur in Washington a conference that may come to be regarded as one of the most momentous in all history. Inseparable from the discussions of disarmament is that of internationalism, a term commonly used but not so often analyzed. Webster says that the international life of peoples manifests itself in three ways, in hostile relations (war); in pacific neutral relations (commerce), or in more sympathetic relations (exchange of ideas, feelings, etc.). Our present conception of internationalism is concerned with the third phase;—the development of an individual and national spacious mindedness that will make for true neighborliness among the peoples of the earth who are being drawn more and more closely together by continued reduction of the time element in transportation. And we are impressed with the tremendous potentialities for internationalism of our own profession. The Department of Nursing of the International League of Red Cross Societies, directed by American nurses, has as an objective, the establishment of public health nursing in all of the thirty-one nations now members of the League. This means that schools of nursing must inevitably be established in those countries previously without any means of educating nurses, and indeed, several are already being established by the American Red Cross, that in Warsaw, Poland, being most recently added to the list. The Navy Nurse Corps is faring farther and farther afield. At the present time they are developing various phases of health work in many of our island possessions. Will Irwin, in his powerful appeal for peace says: "Perhaps we cannot eliminate war. It seems so deeply rooted in human institutions. It is so easy to stir up hate, so hard to create understandings!" Has any other body of women so marvellous an opportunity for promoting good-will among peoples? Will not the thought of those of us who must remain at home be infinitely expanded by our interest in those of our number who are so widely spreading the knowledge of health?

## STILL ANOTHER CENTRAL SCHOOL

The success of the pioneer university school of nursing in the University of Minnesota has, from the beginning, had its influence in opening, more or less widely, the doors of some sixteen other universities. It was in 1909 that Dr. Richard Olding Beard, addressing the national nursing organizations, said:

Those who are in control of this movement believe that, given a due degree of physical fitness, given a higher measure of preliminary training, given that serious devotion to her calling which bespeaks the quality of the woman who undertakes the task, the nurse cannot be too highly educated or too perfectly trained.

The announcements of the University Bulletin of August 13, are stimulating evidence that the school is still consistently "putting its creed into its deed." The facilities of the school have been increased by its recent association with the Minneapolis General Hospital, the Charles T. Miller Hospital of St. Paul, and the proposed alliance with the Hospital of the Northern Pacific Railroad now being erected in St. Paul. The arrangement is one that makes of the University School a true central school with Miss Powell its Director, having headquarters at the University Hospital, and the varied and extensive clinical facilities represented by a total of over eleven hundred beds available for the instruction of students. The plan of instruction remains as before: a three-year course leading to the degree of Graduate Nurse, and a five-year combined course in Arts and Nursing with considerable latitude in choice of programme for specialization in the last half of the fifth year. As the school under Miss Powell and her assistants, Miss Pierce and Miss Vannier, has already demonstrated a "remarkable continuity of growth in depth and reach of vision" the future of the central school seems assured. It will have the cordial good wishes of all those who are concerned with the maintenance of high standards in the education of nurses.

## MEDICAL EDUCATION IN AMERICA

The Educational Number of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* contains a most interesting statistical report of the development of medical education in this country in the last twenty years. It is particularly interesting to note that, since 1904, enrollments have been steadily declining, but requirements have as steadily risen until it is now the proud boast of those who have worked to that end that medical education in America is today on a par with that of those European countries that so long out-ranked us. Forty-one states (including the territory of Alaska) now have an entrance requirement in advance of four years in a standard high school, and

seventy-seven of the eighty-three medical colleges listed require two years or more in a college of liberal arts. The number of available scholarships, in view of the increasing requirements, is exceedingly interesting and worthy of attention on the part of schools for nurses. Forty-five schools have four hundred and sixty-nine scholarships at their disposal! The schools are classified as follows: an A school is acceptable; a B school is one which, under its present organization, gives promise of being made acceptable by general improvements, while a C school requires complete reorganization, and other changes, to become acceptable. The American Medical Association endeavors to make its classification very clear in all its details for the benefit of the prospective student, a fair-minded policy quite identical with that of the various nursing organizations in their recruiting activities.

#### VIRGINIA'S METHODS IN RECRUITING

The comparative study of teaching, of nursing and of business as callings for women prepared by the State League of Nursing Education in coöperation with the Southern Women's Educational Alliance, is part of the well organized publicity work now being carried on in Virginia. The scholarly pamphlet is sent out with literature of all the training schools and is being widely circulated by the Alliance. The study is based on questionnaires sent to three groups of one hundred each; teachers in public school systems, nurses in all fields except public health, (reserved for later inquiry), and business women whose work is not based on standardized training. The pamphlet is illustrated by graphs showing Educational Investment, Salaries, Financial Responsibilities, Outlook for Advancement in Salaries, and Prospects for Promotion in Rank. The following conclusions, while only tentative and transient, are interesting:

The nursing profession presents at present the most difficult and extended training, and the best average salary. Business shows here the next best opportunity as to average salary. It offers also, by the returns from the questionnaires, the best opportunities for initiative, as well as for the higher levels of salary and independent money-making. Teaching in all the school grades must be raised, as nursing has been, to a reasonably comfortable living wage; but all conditions prove that both teaching and nursing must always be viewed as essentially idealistic callings suited for those content to forego financial adventure and any approach to wealth, in the interest of such specialized forms of public service as they offer.

#### THE JOURNAL FOR CHINESE NURSES

The July number of the *Quarterly Journal for Chinese Nurses* announces that thirty-one Training Schools were represented at the recent examinations for registration by the State Nurses'

Association. For the first examination, held six years ago, only seven nurses applied, whereas this year there were 149 applicants, 77 of whom were young men.

Nina D. Gage, who is so well known in this country and who is Superintendent of Nurses at Hunan-Yale, Changsha, is a member of a committee of the Medical Missionary Association which is collecting data on nurses homes, a problem that has by no means lost its savor here at home. Missionary nurses in China have one great advantage in a country which had to coin a word for nurses so recently,—they are free to establish their own precedents and thus to avoid many of the errors of countries somewhat over-burdened with tradition. A feature of the recent Commencement exercises of the Union Training School in Pekin was the presentation, by the President of China, of a medal and a certificate to Alice Powell, Superintendent of Nurses, in recognition of her services at the time of the flood in Tientsin.

#### INSTITUTES FOR PRIVATE DUTY NURSES

Instructors, Training School Inspectors, Industrial and other groups of public health nurses have somewhat recently adopted the plan, long familiar to teachers, of holding institutes. Now comes Miss Gladwin's suggestion, in her paper on the "Opportunities and Obligations of Alumnae Associations," that interested bodies hold institutes for private duty nurses. Is not this the very thing our faithful bedside nurses have long wanted,—a means of comparing notes, of discussing methods, of passing on ideas, and of keeping up to date generally? The JOURNAL will be interested to know the results of Miss Gladwin's suggestion.

#### SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

To nurses generally, who if asked about the beginnings of organized public health work in this country, would probably suggest a date not far beyond that of the founding of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in 1912, it will come as a surprise to find the American Public Health Association planning for a semi-centennial celebration to be held in New York, November 8-18. The plan of the celebration is one of many sided interest, including a Health Institute, November 8-12, in which New York's wealth of health organizations will be utilized for demonstrations. This will be followed by the Scientific sessions 14-18, when the programmes on child health and health education will be of special interest to nurses. A delightful feature planned is a banquet in honor of Dr. Stephen Smith, founder and first president, whose centennial happily coincides with

the semi-centennial of the association. A Jubilee volume to be published about October 1, will be, in effect, a general history of public health from the earliest times.

#### NATIONAL CANCER WEEK, OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 5

Since 85,000 people die yearly in this country of cancer, and the majority of cases could be cured if taken early, the American Society for the Control of Cancer is perfecting a nation-wide plan for Cancer Week. The aim is entirely educational and it is desired that as many people as possible be reached with the hopeful message of cancer control, hopeful because figures indicate that the death rate has remained stationary since 1916. Campaign committees have been formed in practically all communities of five thousand and over. It is planned that they will ask schools for nurses to give at least three lectures as follows: Cancer of the Skin and Buccal Cavity, Cancer of the Breast and Uterus, Internal Cancers. Nurses' organizations will be asked to invite special lecturers to present the various phases of the cancer control movement. Nurses everywhere are urged to coöperate with those who are guiding this exceedingly important movement.

#### LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP

The recent experiences of a correspondent, a registered nurse, reminds us of the great importance of careful investigation of distant positions before accepting them. Institutions usually make searching inquiry before admitting new workers to their staffs. Individuals are prone to be more trusting, failing to realize that institutions are as many sided and as subject to weaknesses as they themselves and should be expected to give proof of their good intention before money is spent in travel and equipment. Only by careful investigation on both sides, can embarrassment, loss and disappointment be avoided.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The twenty-third annual meeting held in West Baden, Indiana, September 12-16, was permeated by a spirit of good-fellowship and characterized by an efficiency of organization that removed many of the causes of fatigue common to conventions. The programme was a forward looking one, having for its key-note the care of the individual in his whole relation to his community. A brief report will appear later.